

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/462,345

Applicant(s)

YOSHIGAHARA ET AL.

Examiner

Kelly L. Jerabek

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment Filed 8/10/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____


NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Amendment pages 2-4, filed 8/10/2005 with respect to claims 1 and 11 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-18 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Re claims 1-18, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest" A picture generating apparatus and method comprising: at least two image pick-up means for picking up an image; correlation detecting means for comparing with each other, **on an epipolar line which is an intersection line of an image pick-up plane of the image pick-up means and a plane determined by a line of sight connecting a virtual position and the object to be imaged, and a line connecting an optical center of the virtual position and an optical center of a detection camera**, respective picture data generated by the respective image pick-up means to detect correlation

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therebetween; and distance picture generating means for generating distance picture indicating distance between a virtual position and the object to be imaged on the basis of the correlation detected by the correlation detecting means”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kumar et al. (US 5,963,664) discloses a method and system for image combination using a parallax-based technique. The information regarding epipolar lines is relevant material.

Wu et al. (US 5,577,130) discloses a method and apparatus for determining the distance between an image and an object. The information regarding epipolar planes is relevant material.

Nakamura (US 5,940,634) discloses a range finding device. The information regarding correlation value calculation and distance calculation is relevant material.

Oda et al. (US 5,389,996) discloses a distance measuring device for a camera. The information regarding measuring the distance to an object is relevant material.

Wu et al. (US 6,801,653) discloses an information processing apparatus. The information regarding epipolar lines is relevant material.

Yoshigahara et al. (US 6,476,812) discloses an information processing system. The information regarding epipolar lines is relevant material.

Contacts

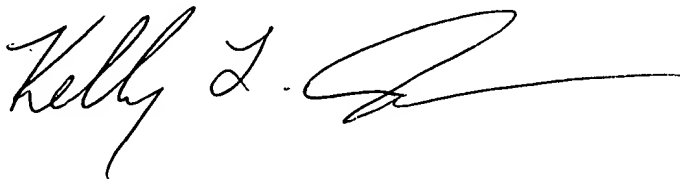

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kelly L. Jerabek whose telephone number is (571) 272-7312. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc Yen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for submitting all Official communications is 703-872-9306. The fax phone number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the Examiner at (571) 273-7312.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KLJ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly L. [unclear]". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ngoc-Yen Vu". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER